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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

: 10/734,583

Applicant Filed

: Hidetoshi ANDOU : December 15, 2003

TC/A.U.

: 3738

Examiner

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Docket No. Customer No.

: 2923-595 : 06449

Confirmation No.

: 2600

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant submits herewith information that the Office may wish to consider in examination of the subject application.

Materials submitted for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

This statement is being provided prior to the receipt of the first Office Action on the merits.

U.S. Patents 6,551,801 B1, 5,399,677 as well as EP 0433225 were cited by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Application Serial No. 10/414,954, filed April 16, 2003.

Application No. 10/734,583 claims priority to Application No. 10/414,954 under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT					Filing Date			December 15, 2003					
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT						Nam	ed Inventor	Hidetoshi ANDOU					
						Art	Unit	3738					
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Sheet 1 of 1					Attorney Docket Number			2923-595					
				ι	J.S. PA	TEN	T DOCUMENTS						
	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document				Name of Pate		entee or Applicant d Document		Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY			
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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date

Considered

Examiner

Signature

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code. ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. AB indicates that only an English language abstract is attached.